

# **Court Substance Abuse Management Specialists (CSAMS) Code of Ethics**

## **Principle 1: Non-Discrimination**

- a. A professional staff member of a court alcohol and drug program (“a CSAMS professional”) shall not discriminate against clients or professionals on the basis of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, age, or disabilities.
- b. A CSAMS professional shall avoid bringing personal issues into a client relationship. The member shall place professional responsibility over personal interests.
- c. A CSAMS professional shall be knowledgeable about disabling conditions, demonstrate empathy and personal emotional comfort in interactions with clients with disabilities, and make available physical, sensory, and cognitive accommodations that allow clients with disabilities to receive services.

## **Principle 2: Responsibility**

- a. A CSAMS professional shall espouse objectivity and integrity, and shall maintain the highest standards in the services of the program and the court.
- b. A CSAMS professional who is aware of unethical conduct or unprofessional behavior shall report such behavior to the appropriate authority.
- c. A CSAMS professional shall support coordination, collaboration, and cooperation with other individuals and organizations assisting those whose lives are impaired by alcohol and other drug abuse.

## **Principle 3: Competence**

- a. A CSAMS professional shall recognize the need for ongoing education as a component of professional competency, shall recognize boundaries and limitations of the professional’s competencies, and shall not offer services or use techniques outside these professional competencies.
- b. A CSAMS professional shall assume personal responsibility for the quality and extent of services provided to the client.

## **Principle 4: Legal and Moral Standards**

- a. A CSAMS professional shall uphold the legal and accepted moral codes that pertain to professional conduct and shall be fully cognizant of all federal and state laws regarding court program services.
- b. A CSAMS professional shall not claim, either directly or by implication, professional qualifications or affiliations that the professional does not possess.

## **Principle 5: Public Statements**

- a. A CSAMS professional shall accurately attribute the basis of his or her statements concerning matters related to alcohol and drug issues.
- b. A CSAMS professional shall in no way violate the copyright of anyone by reproducing material in any form, except in those ways allowed under the copyright laws. This involves direct violation as well as failure to report a violation of copyright by others.

## **Principle 6: Client Welfare**

- a. A CSAMS professional shall promote the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and the best interest of the client.
- b. A CSAMS professional shall consider the ability of a client to meet the financial cost when making referrals to outside agencies.

## **Principle 7: Confidentiality**

A CSAMS professional shall adhere to all federal and state laws regarding confidentiality and shall not disclose confidential information unless permitted or required to under confidentiality laws.

## **Principle 8: Client Relationships**

- a. A CSAMS professional shall safeguard the integrity of the professional relationship and ensure the client has reasonable access to effective service.
- b. A CSAMS professional shall not engage in professional relationships or commitments that conflict with family members, friends, close associates, or others whose welfare might be jeopardized by such a dual relationship.
- c. A CSAMS professional shall not exploit relationships with current or former clients for personal gain, including social or business relationships.
- d. A CSAMS professional shall not under any circumstances engage in sexual behavior with current or former clients or accept as clients persons with whom the professional has engaged in sexual behavior.

## **Principle 9: Inter-professional Relationships**

- a. A CSAMS professional shall treat colleagues and other professionals with respect, courtesy, and fairness.
- b. A CSAMS professional shall not exploit any relationship with supervisees, employees, students, research participants, or volunteers.

## **Principle 10: Remuneration**

A CSAMS professional shall not receive any personal or financial gain for referral of a client for professional services or behave in a manner that would indicate an appearance of or an actual conflict of interest.

*The National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors Code of Ethics was utilized in the development of the CSAMS Code of Ethics.*